

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

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R 281132Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4168

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMCONSUL ASMARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13288

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, ET, KE

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES; EMPEROR'S DEATH

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 10000 (NOTAL); (B) NAIROBI 7464
(NOTAL)

1. MAURICE EWANS, HEAD OF FCO EAST AFRICA DEPARTMENT, COULD NOT GIVE EMBASSY PRECISE NUMBER OF ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES NOW IN UK, BUT CLAIMED THAT ANY FIGURE OVER 1,000 WOULD BE "QUITE RIDICULOUS." HE ASSUMES THAT PERHAPS TWO OR THREE HUNDRED ETHIOPIANS HAVE ENTERED BRITAIN ON NORMAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. ONLY A HANDFUL -- PERHAPS A DOZEN -- HAVE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FCO OR HAVE REQUIRED SOME SORT OF SPECIAL FOREIGN OFFICE PERMISSION TO ENTER. IN THE MAIN, THIS SMALL GROUP IS COMPOSED OF FORMER AMBASSADORS OF THE IMPERIAL REGIME. EWANS PRESUMES THE SAME SITUATION EXISTS IN BONN AND ROME.

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2. ON SEPARATE SUBJECT, EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED WHETHER UK PLANNING ANY OFFICIAL ACT IN CONNECTION WITH DEATH OF EMPEROR. EWANS SAID CROWN PRINCE HAD REQUESTED A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY, BUT THAT FCO WOULD BE A LONG TIME IN PASSING ON THE REQUEST. BRITISH HAVE RECEIVED NO MESSAGE ON SUBJECT FROM ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND EXPECT THE EMPEROR WILL BE QUIETLY BURIED WITHOUT CEREMONY. "IT'S SAD," EWANS COMMENTED. "HE DIED TWO YEARS TOO LATE."

RICHARDSON

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NNN

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06 JUL 2006

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